

JESSIKA UNTERBERGER

B.A. HISTORY '14

Camarillo native Jessika Unterberger thought she had it all figured out.

At age 10, she decided to become a veterinarian. By her junior year of high school, she had acceptance letters for three pre-vet programs.

Then she took her first trip abroad – to Bali – and everything changed.

"A spark was ignited inside of me," says Unterberger. "I knew I wanted to see the world, experience its different cultures, taste its foods, wander off the beaten path and share what I was learning with others. When I got home, I rejected my offer letters and chartered a new course. I chose to follow my heart."

Unterberger obtained a bachelor's degree in history from CI and, in March, will graduate from USC with a master's degree in education and a teaching credential. She currently works as a substitute teacher for Oxnard Union High School District and a student teacher at Hueneme High School.

During the course of her collegiate path, she's taken every opportunity to travel – research projects, study abroad programs with her students and pleasure trips. Altogether, she's visited 23 countries in the past five years.

Her current goal is to teach social studies in Ventura County, but she's already looking to expand what she offers as an educator.

"History is the story of the world through the perspective of others," she says. "Getting a master's in journalism will enhance my ability to help students assess different perspectives and communicate from their own."

NOTE: Unterberger has received acceptance letters for journalism programs at Stanford and Harvard.

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